

Youth Reinvestment Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Revised 3/5/19 – All changes in red

1. **What is the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG)?**

The Youth Reinvestment Grant program was established in the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and the related trailer bill (Assembly Bill 1812, Chapter 36, Statutes of 2018). The Youth Reinvestment Grant program is aimed at diverting low-level offenders from initial contact with the juvenile justice system using approaches that are evidence-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate. Applicants are California cities and counties. Applicants must designate a “lead public agency” to receive 10 percent of the funds and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, and nonprofit organizations to implement the local grant program. Applicants must pass through the remaining 90 percent of awarded funds to community-based organizations to deliver diversion programs to minors.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1450, subd. (a) and the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29)

2. **How much funding is allocated to the YRG program?**

The 2018 Budget Act appropriated total funding of \$37,300,000 for the YRG program.

- 94%, or \$35,062,000, must be awarded to local jurisdictions through a competitive grant process for implementing evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and developmentally appropriate diversion programs in underserved communities with high rates of juvenile arrests and high rates of racial/ethnic disproportionality within those juvenile arrests.
- 3%, or \$1,119,000, must be awarded to Indian tribes for implementing diversion programs for Indian children using trauma-informed, community-based, and health-based interventions. This set aside has been released as a separate RFP and is referred to as the “**Tribal Youth Diversion Grant.**” If you have questions about the Tribal Youth Diversion Grant, please [click here](#).
- 3%, or \$1,119,000, is available to the BSCC for the administration of the grant program, including contracting for a statewide evaluation.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1450, subd. (b) and the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29)

3. **Who is eligible to apply for the YRG funds?**

Local jurisdictions in California including a city, a county, or a city and county are eligible to apply for YRG funds. Applications from counties must be submitted by the Board of Supervisors or the Chief County Administrative Officer. Applications from cities must be submitted by the City Council or the Administrative Office of the City (i.e. City Manager).

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subd. (a)

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4. Can a CBO apply directly for the YRG?

CBOs are not eligible to apply directly for YRG funds; however, 90 percent of all YRG funds must be passed through to CBOs by the applicant city or county. CBOs will be responsible for delivering diversion services to minors under this grant.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subd. (b)(3)(B)

5. How do I apply for the YRG funds?

If you are a California city, county, or city and county interested in applying for funding, you may access the Request for Proposal (RFP) on the BSCC website at www.bscc.ca.gov. It is the applicant's responsibility to read the RFP, prepare a proposal that is responsive to the RFP, and submit a complete application package that clearly identifies the need as well as the proposed intervention. The application due date is March 29, 2019.

6. When applying for the YRG funds, how much can I request?

Applicants are encouraged to request only the amount of funds needed to support their proposal, however local jurisdictions have a minimum allowable amount of \$50,000 and a maximum allowable amount of \$1,000,000. It is important to note that the amount requested is for the entire 44-month grant cycle.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subdivision (b)(1)

7. What is the match requirement for the YRG funds? Can the match be in-kind instead of cash?

The YRG generally has a 25 percent match requirement; however, applicants who have a high need combined with little or no existing diversion infrastructure may request a 10 percent match through the application process. Regardless of match amount, applicants may provide either cash or in-kind match.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subd. (b)(2)

8. Are there any requirements or limitations on who can be appointed as a Lead Public Agency?

Cities or counties applying for these funds can fulfil the role of Lead Public Agency themselves or they may appoint any department or agency within their jurisdiction. Although local jurisdictions are allowed to submit multiple applications, each application must present a unique proposal, ~~including the identification of a different Lead Public Agency.~~

9. Who is considered a Community-Based Organization (CBO)?

For the purposes of this grant, a CBO is defined as a nongovernmental organization that provides services to a community consisting of individuals, groups or other organizations that constitute the local or community service population. In the context of the Youth Reinvestment Grant, a CBO is generally considered to be a non-government, non-law enforcement organization that provides services to youth and

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families that are at risk of involvement or already involved with the juvenile justice system. In the YRG Request for Proposals, CBOs are referred to as NGOs or Non-Governmental Organizations.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subd. (b)(3)(B)

10. Can an applicant partner with multiple CBOs? If so, how must the 90 percent pass through funding be applied?

Applicants, or their designated Lead Agencies, must pass through a minimum of 90 percent of their total grant award to one or more CBOs. Applicants have the discretion to determine which CBOs, and how many CBOs, will receive a portion of the 90 percent pass through.

Reference Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1454, subd. (b)(3)(B)

11. Does the CBO need to be identified in the application?

An applicant does not have to identify the CBO in their proposal. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to determine their need and goals and to lay out a clear plan for how to address the identified needs and meet the goals. Although the specific CBOs may not be identified in the application, the nature of the services to be provided should be clearly articulated.

12. How can applicants demonstrate that they experience high rates of juvenile arrests and racial or ethnic disparities?

It is the applicant's responsibility to explain the need in its jurisdiction and to include available data and supporting documentation to demonstrate that need. What data is available to any given jurisdiction and how that is presented in the proposal is entirely a local decision.

13. Who is eligible to be a direct service provider?

CBOs are eligible to receive the 90 percent pass through funding. Eligible CBOs must be non-governmental and non-law enforcement/probation to receive these funds as a service provider.

14. Does a service provider have to provide each of the following services: diversion, alternatives to arrest, educational services, mentoring services, behavioral health services, and mental health services?

It is not necessary for any one service provider to offer all of these services. However, the service provider must provide one or more of these services. It is the applicant's responsibility to assess the local need for services and determine what services to provide and how best to provide them.

15. Can YRG funds be used to provide services to a youth regardless of the youth's immigration status?

Yes.

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Grant Implementation

- 1. If "Diversion services are intended for youth under 18 or 18+ with continuing juvenile court jurisdiction," is the intent to serve only those youth who have an arrest record?**

No. In fact, the primary goal of this grant is to divert youth from initial contact with law enforcement.

- 2. If the primary goal is to avoid initial contact with law enforcement, how are youth identified or referred to NGO?**

It is the responsibility of each Applicant to determine and describe what diversion services are needed, how youth are identified or referred and how the services should be delivered in their community.

- 3. Are youth who are 18 and over eligible to receive services?**

If a youth is 18 or older AND they are under the continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court, they are eligible to receive diversion services under this grant.

- 4. What is meant by "Service providers are expected to accept calls from anyone who would otherwise call law enforcement" as stated on page 3 of the RFP?**

The primary goal of the Youth Reinvestment Grant is to divert youth prior to initial contact with law enforcement. The intent of this expectation is to provide concerned parties such as families, friends, and community members an alternative to calling law enforcement.

- 5. With the dual requirement of prevention and no net-widening, how do these two aspects work?**

The idea of prevention is encompassed in the YRG goal of diverting youth from initial contact with law enforcement. In cases where that is not possible, by disallowing net-widening, YRG seeks to ensure that all youth involved in the system are served in the least restrictive manner possible.

- 6. What constitutes an acceptable educational program for diversion services?**

The underlying goal is to provide diversion services that keep youth out of the juvenile justice system. The statute allows for diversion programs funded under this grant to incorporate an educational component, including academic and vocational services. Applicants who intend to include an educational component must describe the need for those services, define the specific services that will be delivered, and explain how the services that will be delivered meet the need of the target population.

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7. Is there a general expectation for certain phases of the project in the grant cycle, such as an Implementation Phase?

There are no set phases to which all grantees must adhere and the BSCC recognizes that it may take some time for some grantees to complete their start-up activities and begin providing services. Generally, this occurs for all grantees within the first six months, allowing a full three years for project implementation and then a short period for close out.

8. What is the expectation of continuation or institutionalization of the program beyond the grant period?

This grant award is limited to the funding and time frame as specified in the RFP and it does not include a requirement that grantees sustain their programs after the grant agreement has ended.

9. Have the data points (or types of data) that the appointed evaluator will be collecting from all grantees been identified?

No. Once the statewide evaluator has been selected, the BSCC and Evaluator will work with grantees to identify the data points.

Eligible Applicants/Lead Public Agency/Community Based Organizations or Non-Governmental Organizations

10. What is the difference between the requirements for the Lead Public Agency and the City/County applicant?

The City or County applicant that is awarded a grant has the contractual relationship with the BSCC and is responsible for the administration of its Youth Reinvestment Grant project and adherence to all award requirements. Grantees are required to use a Lead Agency to coordinate the local grant activities as assigned by the Grantee, but the Grantee retains responsibility for the project. The Applicant can serve as the Lead Agency or the Grantee can identify another public agency to serve as the Lead Agency.

11. If a county is applying for a project for its own probation department, could the county apply for a second project with the county office of education and the local workforce development board?

Yes.

12. Does the Lead Public Agency have to be an independent entity from the Applicant or can the Applicant be its own Lead Public Agency?

Yes, an Applicant can choose to serve as the Lead Public Agency.

13. Do School Districts and County Offices of Education qualify as Lead Public Agencies?

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Yes. A School District or County Office of Education cannot be the Applicant, but they can be the Lead Public Agency designated by a city or county.

14. What are some examples of Lead Public Agencies?

The Lead Public Agency can be any public department or agency that the Applicant selects.

If you are looking for potential Lead Public Agencies in your area, it might be helpful to conduct an online search using the city or county name. You will find that most, if not all, cities and counties maintain this type of information on their websites.

15. Can one Lead Public Agency be designated for three proposals meeting different criteria and different regions within a county?

Yes. However, the RFP requires that each proposal be unique. It is possible that one Lead Public Agency could be a partner in implementing unique diversion interventions in multiple communities.

16. Does the City/County need to submit the Letter of Intent (LOI), or can the lead agency submit the LOI on behalf of the City/County, knowing the application will be submitted by the City/County?

Yes, the Letter of Intent is non-binding and may be submitted by a proposed Lead Agency on behalf of the Applicant. In this case, the LOI should indicate that it is being sent on behalf of the City/County of _____.

17. Can a Lead Public Agency sign the application and submit the proposal?

Yes, but only on behalf of a city or county and if the signatory of the Lead Agency has the authority to sign on behalf of the city or county.

18. Can the lead agency submit a proposal without yet naming the NGOs it will partner with?

Applications may be submitted by the City or County (the Lead Agency may submit only if it is on behalf of the City or County Applicant) without the specific names of the Non-Governmental Organizations that will be used for service delivery. Applicants are required to provide a clear description of the services that will be provided (See Question #11)

19. Who selects the NGOs? Is it the City/County or the Lead Public Agency?

The City or County applicant is responsible for the administration of its Youth Reinvestment Grant and may select the NGOs by whatever means it chooses, including requesting its Lead Agency to do so.

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20. Are there any guidelines or requirements about the process used by the Lead Public Agency to select NGO partners? For example, will Cities/Counties use an RFP process to solicit proposals from interested NGOs?

No, the RFP does not include requirements regarding the selection process. Cities and Counties must use their local procedures, which may include releasing a Request for Proposals.

21. Can a City or County designate more than one NGO – either using the same Lead Public Agency or different Lead Public Agencies?

Yes, both of those scenarios are acceptable. An Applicant can select one or more NGOs to provide services under this grant. There is no cap on the number of NGOs that can be selected and it is not necessary to use different Lead Public Agencies for each proposal.

22. How can NGOs that are interested in participating in this grant program locate potential applicants or Lead Public Agencies to partner with?

We have posted the Letters of Intent on our website and we will update the list should any more be received. Potential NGO partners agencies can contact these Cities and Counties directly to express interest. NGOs can also reach out to the public agencies and departments in the communities where they work.

23. Is the Community Based Organization (CBO) different from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)?

No. For the purposes of this grant, the terms are used interchangeably. Although the YRG statutes refer to CBOs, the definition of CBO in this grant program is any NGO. Non-Governmental Organization includes CBOs, non-profits, faith-based organizations and any other organizations that are not governmental.

Application Process

24. Will an electronic copy suffice for meeting the application submission deadline of March 29, 2019 if the hard copy arrives by mail soon after?

Yes. Each Applicant is required to submit BOTH an original hard copy and an electronic version of the proposal. While the BSCC expects both of these to be received by the March 29, 2019 due date, the application will not automatically be disqualified so long as either the hard copy or the electronic version is received by the due date and as long as both are received in a reasonable time and are identical.

25. Does the resolution need to be submitted with the proposal?

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No. Applicants who are successful and offered an award are required to submit the Board Resolution before the grant agreement is executed and before receiving any funds.

26. Can a regional application request more than \$1 million?

Yes. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1454(c) specifies that “Local jurisdictions may apply for funding under this [grant] on a regional efforts basis and receive the aggregate amount of funds that they would have received if awarded as independent jurisdictions.” Since each Applicant may request up to \$1 million, the aggregate amount that could be requested under a regional application is \$1 million multiplied by the number of cities and counties included in the regional proposal.

27. If a county wants to submit a regional proposal for 2 non-contiguous cities, is the maximum amount that can be applied for still \$1 million or can we apply for \$2 million?

A county is a local jurisdiction so if it submits a proposal, it would not be considered a regional application on its own. If two cities develop a regional proposal, with both cities having identified roles and responsibilities under the grant, the application can request a total of \$2 million. If a county and the two cities work together to develop one regional application, with all three entities having identified roles and responsibilities, and submit one application, the application can request a total of \$3 million. Regardless of how many local jurisdictions are included in a regional proposal, there must be only one Lead Public Agency identified. That Lead Public Agency will receive 10% of the total grant award and be responsible for coordinating the overall effort of all jurisdictions, including data management and reporting.

28. Is specific documentation needed to meet the regional application requirements?

All regional applications must meet the following criteria:

- a) One city or county must be clearly designated as the lead applicant and that city or county must submit the application and is responsible for all aspects of grant administration and management.
- b) Every city or county involved in the regional proposal must submit a letter of commitment from its City Council or Board of Supervisors indicating support of the regional effort and identifying its roles and responsibilities relative to the grant.

29. Is a region the same as a county?

No. Any two or more local jurisdictions may comprise a “region” for the purposes of submitting a regional application.

30. Do regions need to be geographically contiguous?

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No. It is not necessary that the jurisdictions on a regional application be within the same county or that they be contiguous.

31. Will more than one proposal be funded for the same region as long as proposals are distinctly different?

In the context of a region, proposals will be funded based on the rating they receive and without regard to the ratings of other proposals in the region or the uniqueness of the proposals, so it is possible that more than one proposal from a region could be funded. The requirement for unique proposals is limited to a City or County Applicant submitting more than one proposal. It is therefore theoretically possible that two separate eligible applicants from the same region (two cities in the same county, for example) will submit largely similar proposals and score highly enough to each be funded.

32. How does the BSCC define small, medium, and large counties?

The BSCC relies on demographic data published by the California Department of Finance (DOF) in making these designations. These data are included in the RFP as Appendix B.

33. Where and when will you announce which cities and counties applied?

The BSCC will post a list of the after we complete our technical review and prior to the proposals being provided to the Raters. We anticipate this to be mid-April.

Budget

34. Does the requested award amount of \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 only fund one year or is that the total that would be awarded for the entire grant cycle?

The amount that any given Applicant requests will be the total amount received for the entire grant cycle if they are selected to receive funding. In completing the budget table, it is the responsibility of each Applicant to show how its requested amount would be allocated over the entire 3 year and 8 month cycle for this grant.

35. Do all costs related to the NGO partner(s) go on the NGO line item or would they be budgeted on the various line items just like the Lead Public Agency costs?

All NGO-related expenses are to be included on the NGO line item.

36. How should the 10% of the budget for the Lead Public Agency be displayed?

While the full 90% being passed through to NGO(s) is shown on the NGO line, the 10% for the Lead Public Agency should be allocated across as many line items as need to fully reflect the planned expenditures. This is true regardless of

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whether the City/County is acting as the Lead Public Agency itself or it has designated another entity to serve as the Lead Public Agency.

37. In looking at Indirect Costs, do both the 5% and 10% criteria apply or do Applicants select one of those?

You may choose one or the other for the Lead Agency. The match requirement for this grant may also be used for Lead Agency indirect costs.

Applicant Cities and Counties are allowed to charge Indirect Costs based on either:

- a) 10% of Salaries and Wages or
- b) 5% of total project costs, excluding equipment.

More information about Indirect Cost Rates can be found in the BSCC's Grant Guide here

<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/BSCC%20Grant%20Admin%20Guide%20July%202016.pdf>

38. Where should evaluation costs be shown in the budget? Can an evaluator count as a CBO/NGO or is it part of the 10% Lead Public Agency budget?

The evaluation costs are to be listed under Project Evaluation (#7 of the Budget Table). The funds for this cost are assumed to come out of the 10% of funds assigned to the Lead Public Agency, which may work with an NGO, a University, another organization or its own staff to complete the Evaluation. In cases where an NGO is completing this work, the costs do not count as part of the required 90% pass through to NGOs. However, if the Applicant opts to complete the evaluation with its own resources, it may do so and describe this in the budget narrative.

39. How is durable equipment accounted for at the end of the grant period? For example, if a printer is purchased and lasts 5 years, do we need to depreciate those costs and credit back the remaining value?

Grantees and their subcontractors (such as CBOs and Lead Agency) must adhere to BSCC's administrative policies described in its Grant Guide:

<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/BSCC%20Grant%20Admin%20Guide%20July%202016.pdf>. In some cases, the Grant Guide advises grantees to adhere to their local requirements.

40. Is the budget Excel sheet included in the 10 pages allowed for the Proposal Narrative?

No. The budget tables and narrative are included in the Excel document and that entire document is outside of the 10-page limit that applies to the Proposal Narrative.

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41. In looking at the Budget Tables, does the first table auto populate based on the other tables?

Yes. When you follow the link to open the Budget Attachment, you will see that the very first table is mostly shaded blue. That is the table that auto populates. As you fill in all the tables that are not shaded blue and that correspond to the individual line items, you will be able to see that the first table (shaded blue) will auto populate.

42. What is supplanting?

Supplanting is the deliberate reduction in the amount of funds being appropriated to an existing program or activity because grant funds have been awarded for the same purposes. When the Grantee or a subcontractor replaces funds in this manner, it reduces the total amount that would have been available for the stated grant purpose. Supplanting is strictly prohibited for all BSCC grant funds and it is the responsibility of the Grantee to ensure that supplanting does not occur. More information about supplanting can be found in the BSCC's Grant Guide; <http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/BSCC%20Grant%20Admin%20Guide%20July%202016.pdf>

43. Would it be considered supplanting if the NGO increased the number of youth served by receiving the grant funding without doing new activities?

It depends and is determined on a case by case basis. Generally, if the established program has unused capacity to accommodate an expansion without adding new resources, then this would be supplanting. However, once the program is at maximum capacity, an expansion due to new funding would not be supplanting.

Match

44. What is meant by 25% matching? What about 10% matching?

The YRG has a 25 percent match requirement except that applicants who have a high need combined with little or no existing diversion infrastructure may request a 10 percent match instead through the application process. Regardless of match amount, applicants may provide either cash or in-kind match. The match requirement applies to the Applicant, though it may be assigned to the Lead Public Agency or any agency or department in the Applicant's jurisdiction. The match requirement may not be passed on to the NGO partner(s).

45. Can CBOs contribute to the match funds, including staff salary?

No, the match requirement may not be passed on to the NGO partner(s).

46. Who is responsible for the match? Does the match have to come from the Applicant or can it be met by the Lead Public Agency or NGO?

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The Applicant is ultimately responsible for ensuring the match requirement is met. The Applicant may assign the match requirement to its Lead Public Agency or another agency under its jurisdiction; however, the match requirement may not be passed on to the NGO partner(s). In displaying the match on the budget attachment, those costs should be included in the “Match” column across as many line items as are needed to fully account for the entire match amount.

47. Does the in-kind match have to come directly from the Lead Public Agency or can it be from multiple agencies in the same City/County?

It is possible for a city or county to enlist multiple departments or agencies under its jurisdiction to help meet the match requirement.

48. What are some examples of how the in-kind match could be met by both the Lead Public Agency and NGOs?

The match requirement may not be passed on to the NGO partner(s) under this grant. Example of how the in-kind match could be met by the Applicant:: The Lead Public Agency has one staff person designated to work on the YRG grant and that person’s salary is paid by YRG. The Lead Public Agency “donates” the time of another agency employee to assist with the evaluation component of the grant.

49. How would an applicant calculate the site/location match, such as rental costs?

See question #23 for information about Indirect Cost Rates.